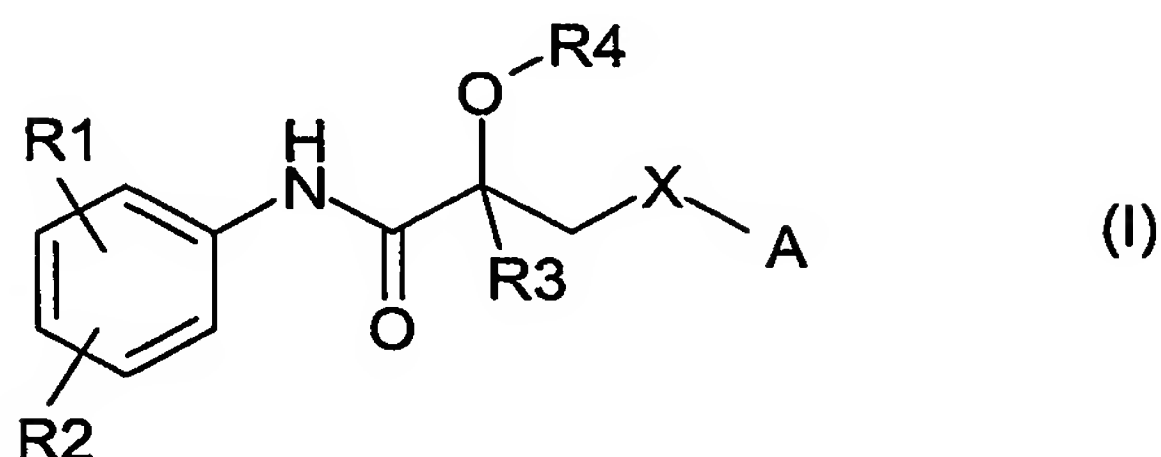


## Claims

## 1. Compounds of formula (I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CHO, wherein n is 0-6;

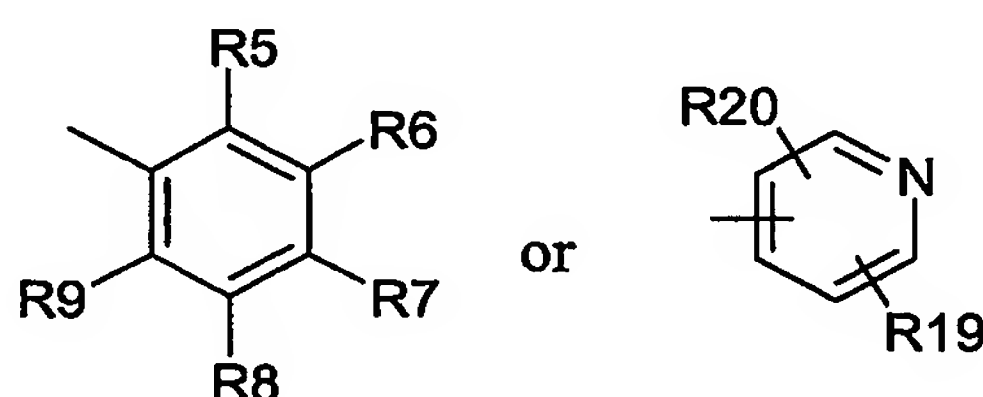
R<sub>2</sub> is nitro, cyano or halogen;

10 R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, COR<sub>10</sub> or SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>13</sub>;

X is O or NH;

A is a group selected from:



wherein R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, cyano(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, amino, mono- or di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl-amino, amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkoxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, -NHCOR<sub>10</sub>, -N(COR<sub>10</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -COR<sub>11</sub>, -OR<sub>12</sub>, -OSO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>13</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>13</sub> or -SR<sub>15</sub> or an imide ring; or R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, or R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> form, together with any of the ring atom(s) to which they are attached, a condensed 5 to 7 membered aliphatic or aromatic carbocyclic ring or a condensed 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatom(s) selected from N, O and S;

25 R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> are independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl, -N(R<sub>16</sub>)<sub>2</sub> or -OR<sub>17</sub>;

R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>15</sub> are independently hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl, -COR<sub>18</sub>;

R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl;

R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> are independently hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl;

R<sub>18</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)aryl;

R<sub>19</sub> and R<sub>20</sub> are independently hydrogen, halogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkenyl;

and wherein each aryl or ring residue defined above may be substituted; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is methyl.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein X is O.

4. A compound according to any of claim 1 to 3, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl or hydroxymethyl and R<sub>2</sub> is nitro or cyano.

5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are independently hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkoxy, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl or -NHCOR<sub>10</sub>, wherein R<sub>10</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, halo(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)alkoxy.

6. A compound according to claim 5, wherein at least one of R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> is a halogen.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein at least two of R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are selected from a group consisting of halogen, cyano and acetamido.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A method of hormonal therapy, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

5 10. A method for the treatment or prevention of androgen receptor dependent conditions, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

10 11. A method according to claim 9 or 10, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) orally.